

SELOEMUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kaw Methodist Mission

AND/OR COMMON

Old Kaw Mission

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

500 North Mission St.

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

STATE

Kansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

20

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 5, Joe Skubitz

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

127

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Kansas

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Morris County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

STATE

Kansas 66846

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration

DATE

1939

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Records destroyed. A guidebook, Kansas, was published in 1939

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kaw Methodist Mission is a sturdy rectangular stone structure of eight rooms built in 1850-1851, with rectangular door and window openings and a gabled roof with chimneys at either end. Except for the addition of several colonial porches, the exterior of the building looks much like it did originally.

The interior wall structure remains the same, but the lower floor now houses a museum related to the mission activities and the pioneer settlement of the area. At the present time the upper floor is used as living quarters for the caretaker.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1851-1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An 1846 treaty with the Kansa or Kaw Indians relegated them to a diminished reservation 20 miles square which included the site of present Council Grove. In 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, signed a contract with the government to establish a mission and school for the Kaw Indians at Council Grove.

The government paid for the building which was finished by February, 1851. The building was large enough to house 50 students in addition to teachers and other mission workers. The school opened in May, 1851, with Thomas Sears Huffaker in charge. The classes continued for the Indian children until 1854. The average attendance was 30 students a year, who were instructed in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. One reason for closing the school was the high cost--\$50 a year per pupil. Another reason was the lack of response by the Kaw Indians. The only children sent to the school were orphan or dependent boys.

In May, 1851, Huffaker had also established a white-school department in part of this building with 12 to 15 white pupils. This was one of the first schools for white children in Kansas territory. When the government withdrew its financial support in 1854, the school for the white children of Council Grove continued.

This was the westernmost Indian mission building constructed in Kansas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Blackmar, Frank L., Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912).
- Holter, Don W., Fire on the Prairies: Methodism in the History of Kansas (Methodist Publishing House, 1968), pp. 28-45.
- Kansas State Historical Society, "Council Grove and the Historic Kaw Mission" (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY four

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Pankratz

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth Street

TELEPHONE

913-296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Kaw Methodist Mission

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

9.

Lutz, Rev. J. J., "The Methodist Missions among the Indian Tribes of Kansas,"
Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society, v. 9 (1905-06), pp. 160-230.
Morehouse, George P., "Probably the First School in Kansas for White Children,"
Kansas Historical Collections, v. 9 (1905-06), pp. 231-235.

